

XV.—*Francolinus Altumi*, Fischer and Reichenow, is the Mule of *F. Hildebrandti*, Cabanis. By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

THE statement made in the above heading would at first seem almost incredible to any one who knows the two forms to which those names have been given; yet the evidence I shall put before my readers leaves no room for doubt that my assertion is correct.

*Francolinus Hildebrandti* was described and figured by Cabanis (J. f. O. 1878, p. 243, pl. iv. fig. 2) from a single female specimen obtained at Taita, which was armed on the right leg with a single sharp spur. The species is characterized by being dull brick-red on the under surface and having some of the feathers of the lower breast and belly margined with pale buff spots, while the feathers of the upper surface (except those of the mantle, which are more strongly vermiculated with black and white) are very finely vermiculated with reddish brown and black, and most have a narrow rufous shaft-streak.

*Francolinus Altumi* was described and figured by Fischer and Reichenow (J. f. O. 1884, p. 179, pl. ii.) from specimens obtained in Massailand, and referred by them to the group of Francolins including *F. Rueppelli* and *F. Clappertoni*, though really much more closely allied to *F. icterorhynchus* from Central Africa and *F. natalensis* from Natal.

It is characterized by having the feathers of the breast and belly white, with a subterminal, heart-shaped, black spot, while the upper surface and under tail-coverts are the same as in *F. Hildebrandti*.

Through Mr. H. C. V. Hunter's generous gift to the Natural-History Museum of the birds collected by him in Massailand our National Collection now contains a good series of each of the above so-called species. On examining the series of *F. Hildebrandti*, which was specially interesting to me as representing a species new to the collection, I noted the facts that all the specimens were sexed female and that all had at least a pair of sharp spurs, while in two examples a second and additional pair of spurs were fairly developed; at the same time I expressed an opinion that *F. Hildebrandti* would certainly prove to be the female of some other species. Not being then engaged in working at the Francolins, I determined to let the matter rest till I should have an opportunity of speaking to Mr. Hunter and hearing his opinion on the

subject. When this gentleman was last at the Museum I asked him how it was that he had obtained no male specimens of *F. Hildebrandti*, and very much to my surprise and pleasure found (though he had forgotten to mention it before) that he had not only arrived at the same conclusion as myself, but had solved the riddle long before on Kilima-njaro, and discovered that *F. Altumi* is the male and *F. Hildebrandti* the female of one and the same species.

Mr. Hunter had been considerably exercised in his mind by on the one hand never being able to obtain the male of *F. Hildebrandti*, while on the other hand all the specimens he got of *F. Altumi* proved invariably to be males. As these two birds were always obtained in company by his collectors, the truth gradually dawned on him and was subsequently proved beyond a doubt by the dissection of a large number of specimens obtained for food.

On comparing the two birds the different points of resemblance are at once seen, viz. the plumage of the upper surface and under tail-coverts and the colour of the bill and legs, which are all practically the same in both; but, so far as I know at present, the extraordinary difference in the colour of the under surface in the sexes is unique in this genus. A still more extraordinary thing is that in the two apparently closely allied forms, *F. icterorhynchus* and *F. natalensis*, the females resemble the males but are without spurs.

The name *Francolinus Hildebrandti*, Cabanis, must therefore be used in future to designate this species.

XVI.—*On Angelopsis, and its Relationship to certain Siphonophora taken by the 'Challenger.'* By J. WALTER FEWKES.

[Plate VII. figs. 1-3.]

ONE of the most interesting genera of Medusæ discovered in the depths of the Gulf-stream by the United States Fish-Commission steamer 'Albatross' is a new Physophore which was described a few years ago (1884) under the name of *Angelopsis* in my paper on the Medusæ of this region.

This genus is remarkable for its large float and the reduction in size and increase in thickness of the walls of the polyp-stem, which has the form of a semicartilaginous expansion with a cavity, and with its external walls covered with